Provided

Jer. 18:11 Make your ways and doings good.

Intro. Setting- from the prophet's illustration of the potter and the clay. Its teaching. Use of text in the teaching. If they would prevent Jehovah from destroying Israel, they must make their ways and their doings good.

Figurative meaning of "ways".
"Way" synonimous with our word "road".
Different kinds of roads with different names, but all were "ways".
Israelites did'nt have the finished roads we have today. They were desert people used to desert ways.
Desert roads were a matter of life and death.
To take the wrong road meant to miss the only water hole, the only base of supplies and to fall into the hands of enemies. It meant death.
And so the taking of the right road always meant life and safety.
The Bible, i.e., speaks of the way of the righteous as leading to prosperity, security and happiness, but the way of the wicked as leading to death and destruction.
"The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous but the way of the wicked shall perish."
"As for God, his way is perfect."
"I am the way, the truth and the life".
Following Christ spoken of as the "way".
"Moreover, a more excellent way show I unto you". 1 Cor.
"By a new and living way." Heb.

Our text is now clear in its meaning. They must turn from their evil ways of worshipping other gods and their evil practices so comtrary to the will of God to do the righteousness which the Lord required of them. They were wrong in all their ways and Jehovah could not bless them until they chose the right ways.

This morning I shall deal with the term "ways" both literally and figuratively, in speaking about good roads.

I. The influence of roads in history.

Today we think of good roads as those suitable for automobile traffic. But such a conception is too restricted.

Next to the land itself Civilization has depended upon its roads, its ways, its great highways of commerce and trade on both land and sea. The world's known sources of supplies and the world's centers of population have always been connected with a network of roads. By such highways the deserts were conquered and the great mountains were crossed. Over such desert roads did the Israelites enter the Promised Land, and over these same riads did their enemies come and to conquer them and take them into captivity. Over such roads did the Jews scatter into all parts of the world, andover them did the first disciples and apostles of the Lord spread the Gospel into all the world.

The need of such roads turned men into explorers and discoverors on both land and sea. Our sturdy pioneers not only built new centers of population but opened up new sources of supplies and built new highways

II. Road improvement a recent world-wide nevement.

The world's roads have always been bad ones. Well-built roads, until recently have always been the exception. Most of us can look back and remember that practically all of the country roads were poor. Only near the cities and towns were they fairly decent. But when the bycycle made its appearance about 1890 roads began to improve. And when the automobile came into use there was created an urgent demand for good roads. Today, we think we have wonderfully fine roads but with all we have we shall have to build many many more hundres and thousands of miles of paved road before we can come up to the roads in Europe, i.e.

III. Federal aid necessary.

1. What we spend on war debt and war preparations.
   40 billion our shalre in the World war.
   1 billion interest annually.
   87 cents of every dollar taxes for war.

2. The 40 billion would have built 1 million miles of concrete highway at $40,000 per mile!
   Of all sad words of tongue or pen

3. The Lincoln Highway nearly completed.
   Began in 1913. About 8 million a yr spent.
   Mostly state money.
   Federal aid needed for many other such trans-continental roads, north and south as well as east and west.

IV. Such road building, tho costing heavily, an actual saving.

The National Highway Assn says it costs a farmer 30¢ per mile to haul a ton of wheat to market; 33¢ per mile his corn, and 48¢ his cotton. Over the improved roads it costs the farmer but 15¢ to haul his wheat and corn and 18¢ his cotton. A farmer hauling 100 tons of hay 10 miles over improved roads saves $150.

Already there are 2 million auto trucks in U.S. They carry over 8 million head of cattle, hogs and sheep every year, to market. There are over 12 million other autos traveling on our highways. And the number increasi at an enormous rate.

The demand for improved roads is likewise growing. Every road should be a well-built road.

V. Now to speak of roads figuratively according to our trxt.

1. Modern conditions of living and doing demand better roads than we have had in the past.

In the days of the Irrealite it mattered little how bad the desert road was just so long as it was the right road leading to a water-hole and base of supplies.

Then it was a matter of keeping to the ri right road in order to avoid death.

But today our extensive and universal travel and the manner of our transportation demand solid, smooth highways for the use of everybod

2. Modern conditions of living and doing likewise demand better ways and doings on our part, religiously speaking.

Never before were the testings of character so severe as they are now. Never were the temptations to steal one's way to success so alluring as tthey are now. Home ties are no longer so binding, marital obligations are no longer so sacred, regard for law is at a low ebb and the eternal realities of life are being ignored and winked at.

Science has given us an entirely new concept- ion of nature and the universe, a conception, whe- ther we like it or not, which is becoming uni- versal because of our common school trainig

3. The old interpretations of God's plan of salvation are proving inadequate to cope with this modern world of humanity.

Life here on earth does'nt matter, only eternity counts. Cling to thw world and you will be damned in hell. Forsake the world and you will go to heaven. Like the ancient desert roads ~~it/is/a/matter/of/life~~ religion has been presented only as a matter of life and death, and that with reference to the hereafter.

Modern ways of thinking, of living and of doing are demanding that we take more heed to the prayer which Jesus taught us- Thy kingdom come, thy will be don on earth as it is in heaven.

We are discovering that religion is more than a matter of saving one's soul in order to avoid hell and reach heaven. Religion is a matter of establishing heaven right here on earth. This very world in which we live is to be made over into the kingdom of God and the laws of man and to be conformed to the righteousness of God. The prophet Jeremiah hit the nail on the head- Make your ways and your doings good" thus only shall you live.

Scientists use to spend all their time formulat- theories about their discoveries and educators use to hold up for the ideal of education a certain finished culture and refinement regardless of the practical utility of education.

But all this has been changed. Education is mor than culture and refinement, education aims to fit a person fur the various pursiuts of life, for the professions and trades. The aims of education today are practical. The purposes of the sciences have also changed accordingly. The value of a scneice today is not the theory which aims to interpret it but the service that science can render humanity in a practical way.

Religion has largely been a matter of theologizing and creed-making. There are as many different intrepretations of God as there are religions and creeds. But the world today is'nt caring much about religions and creeds. "The world is seeking that spiritual power and contact with he infinite which will enable it to live its life here and now adequately to meet our modern situations. The world wants to use God for its needs, not merely to worship God according to creeds. And the great message of t

And the great message of the Bible to mankind is just this- God wants us to use Him for our spiritual needs here and now. God wants us to use Him and His strength for the building of our character and the directing of our doings as shall enable us to gain for ourselves life's victories on earth.